

Amendment/Reply

Applicant: Travis J. Parry et al.

Filed : 06/12/2001

Docket No.: 10011064-1

Title: Automatic Electronic Identification Self-Check

Amendment "A"

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for self-authenticating a marking agent cartridge, wherein said method is comprised of the steps of:

installing an identification means on a marking agent cartridge by forwarding first information regarding said identification means to a database and compiling said first information in said database;

installing said cartridge in a printer,
automatically reading said identification means on said cartridge by said printer;

determining if said cartridge is a counterfeit by automatically reading said identification means on said cartridge by said printer in order to obtain second information regarding said identification means and comparing said first information of said identification means with said second information of said identification means; and

accepting/rejecting said cartridge by accepting said marking agent cartridge as being genuine if said first information of said identification means substantially matches said second information of said identification means; and rejecting said marking agent cartridge as being counterfeit if said first information of said identification means does not substantially match said second information of said identification means.

2. (Original) The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said marking agent is further comprised of:

toner.

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3. (Original) The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said marking agent is further comprised of:

ink.

4. (Original) The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said identification means is further comprised of:

a bar code.

5. (Original) The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said identification means is further comprised of:

a label.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

notifying a producer/supplier of said marking agent cartridge if said marking agent cartridge is rejected as being counterfeit.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for self-authenticating a marking agent cartridge, wherein said method is comprised of the steps of:

installing an identification means on a marking agent cartridge;

installing said cartridge in a printing device cartridge by forwarding first information regarding said identification means to a database and

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compiling said first information in said database;

automatically reading said identification means on said cartridge by said printing device;

determining if said cartridge is a counterfeit by automatically reading said identification means on said cartridge by said printing device in order to obtain second information regarding said identification means and comparing said first information of said identification means with said second information of said identification means; and

accepting/rejecting said cartridge by accepting said marking agent cartridge as being genuine if said first information of said identification means substantially matches said second information of said identification means; and rejecting said marking agent cartridge as being counterfeit if said first information of said identification means does not substantially match said second information of said identification means.

11. (Original) The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said marking agent is further comprised of:
toner.

12. (Original) The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said marking agent is further comprised of:
ink.

13. (Original) The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said identification means is further comprised of:
a bar code.

14. (Original) The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said identification means is further comprised of:

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a label.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

notifying a producer/supplier of said marking agent cartridge if said marking agent cartridge is rejected as being counterfeit.

End of Amendment "A"